

Peru Action & News

Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (CSRP)

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10th Anniversary of Chairman Gonzalo's Historic "Speech from the Cage" September 24, 2002

September 2002 marks ten years since Chairman Gonzalo and other leaders of the Communist Party of Peru (PCP) were captured by the Peruvian political police in an attempt to decapitate the party and defeat the People's War in Peru. Chairman Gonzalo (also known as Abimael Guzmán) was given a sham trial by hooded military judges who declared him guilty of treason and sentenced him to life imprisonment. For the past ten years he has been kept under extremely cruel and isolated prison conditions.

The last time Chairman Gonzalo was seen and heard publicly was on September 24, 1992—the occasion of his historic "speech from the cage." The Fujimori government, in a crass attempt to shame and humiliate him, put him on display before the world's media, dressed in prison stripes and locked in a steel cage. Chairman Gonzalo turned the tables on the government by delivering a powerful speech that was broadcast in Peru and around the world and gave inspiration to revolutionaries and masses in Peru and everywhere.

In that speech, Chairman Gonzalo declared that the People's War, which was initiated in May 1980, is the road to liberation for the people of Peru. He called for the People's War to go forward despite his capture, saying: "We are fighting in these trenches, this is also combat, and we do this because we are communist! Because here we defend the people's interests, the principles of the Party, and the People's War! That is what we have been doing, what we are doing, what we will continue to do!"

In the face of the oppressor's attempts to say that his capture represented the defeat of the People's War, Chairman Gonzalo said that it is "merely a bend in the road" and that "the road is long and we will travel it to the end. We will reach our goal and we will win! You will see it!"

Chairman Gonzalo pointed to the main oppressors of the Peruvian people: "There is an imperialism dominating us, principally U.S. imperialism. This is something real and everyone knows it. Where has this led us? Here and now is the worst crisis in our entire history, a crisis the likes of which has never been endured by our people. Twelve years [of People's War] have demonstrated what? It has clearly shown to the world, and especially to the Peruvian people, that the Peruvian state, the old Peruvian state, is a paper tiger. It is rotten to the core..." Today, ten years later, Chairman Gonzalo's words in this historic speech still ring true.



The Toledo government, elected in 2001 with US backing, following the downfall of the corrupt and genocidal Fujimori-Montesinos regime, continues to drag the people of Peru down the road of poverty, suffering, and subjugation to imperialism.

Peru has one of the hemisphere's three worst rates of maternal and infant mortality. More than half of Peru's 27 million people live on a mere \$1.25 per day or less. The situation is especially bad for the peasants in Peru's countryside. Preventable diseases like malaria, dengue fever, and tuberculosis run rampant while one quarter of Peru's people have no access to medical care.

There is widespread discontent, with almost daily mass protests in the streets. The government, desperate to raise money to pay back its \$28 billion debt to international banks, is trying to sell off more public utilities and other state enterprises to foreign investors. Toledo follows in the well-worn footsteps of his predecessors, enforcing economic policies dictated by the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

At the same time he continues the brutal so-called "pacification" campaign against the People's War, with plans to open several new military bases in the countryside, while keeping thousands of political prisoners locked away in inhuman conditions under Peru's draconian anti-terrorism laws.

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Protesters Rock Peru Short-Circuit Privatization of Public Electricity Generators

For five days in mid-June the streets of Arequipa, the large district capital in southern Peru, erupted with massive protest completely shutting down the city and profoundly shaking the government of Alejandro Toledo. The government was forced to put off the sale of two state-run electrical generating plants – Epasur and Egasur.

President Alejandro Toledo had made written and verbal promises not to sell these two principal power plants in southern Peru during his election campaign. After only nine months in office, he completely reversed himself and offered the power plants to a huge Belgian International Company. During President Fujimori's tenure, Peru had already sold off most of its national assets to foreign investors. A number of immensely valuable mines were sold as well as the national telephone company, a move that led to major employee layoffs and unprecedented price increases. In a policy of tearing up the floorboards of the house to cook the food, the Peruvian State is frantically selling off state assets to pay the foreign debt as they fall further into debt. This is setting the stage for a time where there won't be anything left to sell and the people will have nothing.

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10th Anniversary (cont. from page 1)

The People's War is today more than ever the just and genuine road to liberation for Peru's people. It is being carried forward by the Communist Party of Peru through twists and turns and in the face of difficult challenges resulting from the capture of its top leadership and the continuing US-backed counter-insurgency. On this tenth anniversary of Chairman Gonzalo's historic "speech from the cage," the Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru (US) hails the revolutionary stand and powerful message he delivered that day to the people of the world—calling for the People's War in Peru to continue.

In the speech, Chairman Gonzalo also saluted the advance of revolution around the world: "Maoism is marching relentlessly forward in its task of forging the new wave of the world proletarian revolution...I want to take the opportunity to salute the international proletariat, the oppressed nations of the world, and the Revolutionary Internationalist Movement. Long Live the Communist Party of Peru! The People's War will inevitably be victorious!"

For ten years Chairman Gonzalo has been locked away, along with other PCP leaders, in a specially constructed underground military prison on the Naval Base of el Callao, under intolerably cruel conditions of isolation. In 1993 the Fujimori regime made an unacceptable attempt to attribute political views to Chairman Gonzalo while keeping him cut off from the outside world. The International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr. Abimael Guzmán (IEC) was formed at the time of his capture and initiated a mass international campaign to defend his life. The struggle to defend his life continues today, demanding an end to his isolation and that he be allowed to express his own views in person before the international media.

The CSRP calls on people living in the US to support the just and heroic struggle of the people of Peru to free themselves from the clutches of US global domination, and to join the struggle to end the isolation of the PCP's Chairman Gonzalo.

Long Live The People's War in Peru!

**Defend the Life of
Chairman Gonzalo!**

End His Isolation!

**Demand That
Chairman Gonzalo
Be Presented to the World Press!**



Military Horrors Come to Light: Peru's Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Since the Maoist revolution in Peru began in 1980, the US and Peruvian governments and reactionary press all over the world have falsely labeled this revolution as "terrorist." They say that the revolutionaries have committed horrible crimes against innocent people. In almost every case that was initially reported as a "terrorist atrocity," evidence later surfaced showing that the military was responsible. In fact, it is the whole US-backed counter-insurgency war has been based on terror – massacres, rapes, torture

about this Maoist revolution, much less give it political support.

In 2001, after pouring millions of dollars into the Peruvian military and a court system that locked up thousands for life in torture chambers, the U.S. saw its puppet Fujimori/ Montesinos regime crumble in scandal after scandal.

In light of the mass outrage and protest that has erupted in Peru, the government has been forced to find ways to placate and diffuse the volatile situation. It wants to distance itself from the previous regime while continuing its efforts to discredit the People's War. A key part of this agenda was to form a "Truth and Reconciliation Commission."

The commission is composed of "Senderologists" who have made careers out of attacking the people's war, various representatives of the Catholic Church, and even though it



Family members wait while mass graves are uncovered

and disappearances. Government forces have killed entire villages and buried the people in mass graves.

The U.S. corporate media has taken the lead in a smear campaign against the People's War, trying to fool people into thinking that the revolutionaries are just as bad as the government and in this way justify the government's draconian laws, trials by hooded judges, and other police state measures. They have not wanted people in the US and the rest of the world to check out and learn

has no one representing the victims of the government atrocities (like the families of prisoners or families of the disappeared), it DOES have representation from the Peruvian military that was responsible for carrying out the crimes against the people.

This Commission has been touring the country to take testimony from people who suffered abuses during the last 20 years. The rulers want the masses to reconcile their differences with the government and blow off steam, but for its part the government has only continued its normal role of oppressing the people, and has in fact intensified the counter insurgency.

(Cont. on page 4)

Peru Officials Fret Over PCP Advances

Some intriguing reports hit Peru's mainstream media this summer. Our committee can't confirm these reports, but Peruvian officials warned of broadening PCP influence, expanded areas of operation, and evidence of community support.

The president of Peru's National Intelligence Counsel warned that PCP activists were directing a "discourse to the students, and to those who live in the marginalized zones, talking about the need to carry out change and revolution in the country in order to obtain social, political, and economic justice." He confirmed that the intelligence council "has detected infiltration of terrorist [i.e. revolutionary] elements in some universities and that some of these centers of study have been used for proselytizing." (El Comercio, 7/6/02)

An official report released by Peru's Ministry of Defense (La Republica, 7/27/02) claims that the PCP has infiltrated numerous universities including the Education University (La Cantuta) in San Marcos, Federico Villarreal, and the National Engineering University. The report also speculates that disturbances and attacks against private property during Peru's many ongoing marches and protests (organized by Unions and other regional groups) were the result of so-called subversive infiltration.

The ministry's report goes on to complain of PCP expansion into new areas of San Martin and Aguaytia departments, and describes how "the people of San Martin de Pangoa in Satipo give their houses peacefully for meetings of the subversives who operate with the Central Regional Committee." Adding that it is a similar case with the Principal Regional Committee in the departments of Ayacucho, Apurimac, and Huancavelica.

The army's intelligence service in coordination with Peru's dreaded secret police, claim to have "confirmed that in various zones the terrorists charge taxes to the lumber companies, carry out subversive propaganda, and carry out a complete proselytizing plan with a population that is far removed from the protection of the forces of order." Of course, one must ask: Whose "order" and deadly economic conditions do these government forces seek to protect? ♦

Protesters (cont. from Page 1)

The people of Arequipa took it upon themselves to stop this sale and in the process left the government reeling, with Toledo replacing his cabinet ministers. The protests began the day the sale was announced. The mayor and mayors of surrounding cities had already begun a hunger strike protest days before; although they are not against the sale and privatization in principle, they didn't like the fact that Toledo wouldn't even return phone calls to discuss the sale and they were not happy about being left out of the negotiations.

The moment the sale was announced three hundred rebellious protestors marched im



mediately to the town square armed with flags, stones and clubs. One worker scaled the church bell tower and began to sound the bells calling people to protest. They continued ringing for three hours.

Expecting protests, the interior minister had made many statements declaring that the sale would proceed in spite of protest, and on the day of the sale Toledo himself said before the North American Chamber of Commerce that the privatizations would continue regardless of what protests might arise.

The streets of the city center started to fill with children, and observers commented on the huge numbers of women helping to build barricades against the police and even a group of elderly women burning mattresses in protest. As bonfires sprang up in the center, simultaneously barricades were being built in the surrounding shantytowns and neighborhoods. The route to the airport was shut down for three days. Street battles between the protesters and police units raged and the usually crisp, clean air of the city was

filled with tear gas as police-launched canisters rained from the sky.

Two students from the University School of Agriculture, one thirty years old who was also a leader of the local Boy Scout troop and the other a twenty three year old, were both hit in the head by the tear gas canisters and later died. As the people became more enraged Toledo declared a "state of emergency" and sent a high-level government team to negotiate with the local authorities and leaders of the protest.

Toledo was forced to postpone the sale, sending it to the court in Arequipa to determine its legality. It remains to be seen what will happen. It's clear the people had finally

had enough. For five glorious days they made a resounding statement against free market privatization and set off a whole course of changes in government policy and ministers. The ongoing presence of the Maoist People's War looming in the countryside as the only real solution to all of this madness may have been on the mind of government officials

who complained about the presence of "violent rabble-rousers" amongst the thousands of people protesting in the streets. ♦

The Revolutionary Prisoners of Challapalca Families in Peru Denounce Torture and Isolation

The Committee to Support the Revolution in Peru received a statement from families of political prisoners being held in Peru's notorious Challapalca prison. These families have released their statement to the national and international community in order to denounce the brutal treatment the prisoners are suffering inside this remote prison. (complete text available at www.csrp.org)

Challapalca prison is located at an altitude of over 16,000 feet above sea level, close to the (cont. on page 5)

Truth Commission

(cont. from page 2)

The government is having a hard time keeping the focus off the sickening *Truth* that's coming out. The commission publishes summations of the testimony from each area they visit. What jumps out at you when you read these reports is the horrific scope and number of atrocities committed by the military throughout the course of the 22-year-old People's War --atrocities that have so far gone unpunished. The reports will sometimes start with an account of a policeman killed, or government official, or pro-government paramilitary, but these few cases pale in comparison to the countless stories recounting horrible crimes committed by Peru's US-backed government forces. Based on these testimonies, more and more mass graves are being found with the body parts of people who were tortured and killed by police and military.

The following brief excerpts are just the tip of the iceberg:

Huancavelica

- "On Sept. 27, 1984, Glicerio Taype was detained in his home in the community of Andamarca. He was detained by army troops from the Cobriza military base. Afterwards he was taken to the town plaza where seven other people awaited with their hands and feet tied up. They were taken to the military base. After a year the body of Glicerio Taype was found in a grave with three other bodies. The grave was found in front of the mining camp at Cobriza."

Abancay

- "In 1986 members of the Llamccaya Berrocal family and their neighbors and friends were celebrating the birthday of one of the daughters of the couple. During the night police officers broke into the party shooting at members of the family and guests. Twelve people were killed in the assault, the majority were members of the Llamccaya Berrocal family."

- "In January 1988, twenty four villagers from the communities of Sallai and Checcasa, in the district of Justo Apu Sahuaraura, were detained and taken to the Santa Rosa military base. One month later, they found the body of one of the detained women, with visible signs of torture, at the

Santa Rosa military bases released a press communiqué claiming that the people who had been detained had died in a clash between the Armed Forces and Sendero Luminoso."

Tingo Maria

- "1991 - A contingent of one hundred soldiers entered the village of San Pedro de Pendencia and forced several people to come out of their homes. The townspeople were shot at close range. A



total of seventeen people were killed, ten of them children between the ages of seven months and eleven years old."

- "Antonio Bazan and fourteen other people were detained and killed in the village of Bambu by members of the army."

- On February 9, 1989 the Peasant Federation of Ucayali was protesting in the streets when the police force intervened to stop the march. The police shot at the peasants killing nine of them.

The sister of Antonio Celis Malpartida testified about events in 1989 when her brother disappeared. Antonio had recently returned from school in Lima to help their mother with the family farm. Soldiers were rounding people up outside their house.

"They took my brother again out to the backyard of the house. They beat him up again... They were cruel. They beat him up with rifle butts and with their boots. They stepped on his face. They kicked his face. And not happy with it, they submerged him again and again in the pool [of water]."

"Antonio asked for mercy and approached an official to implore him to stop the beating. The man answered with two kicks in his face. This is what the neighbor who survived told me..."

They took him to the Ayacucho base in Huanuco. Over there, they continued torturing him."

"[My mother] spoke with the person who negotiates the freedom of the prisoners. They asked her for seven thousand dollars for the freedom of my brother... When we came back, they told us that he had been moved to Tingo Maria. They started to play games with us sending us from one place to another."

"...[an aunt] spoke with the commander of the Tingo Maria base and what she found out left us cold: 'Don't keep on looking for him. Your brother was thrown into the Huallaga.' ... Finally, with my brother Miguel, we decided to go and look for his remains in the Huallaga [River]. It is indescribable. My brother and I found tons of arms, legs, heads—some of them in black plastic bags. Women with their breasts cut off. We got into a boat to try to go down the river and we could see the bodies. God knows how many dead bodies are there in the Huallaga. If the river could talk, it would have so much to tell us. It is the biggest mass grave in the country. I never saw Antonio again." ♦

People's Lawyer Under Attack in US Support NY Defense Attorney Lynne Stewart

On April 9, the U.S. government indicted New York defense attorney Lynne Stewart along with her paralegal, Ahmed Abdel Sattar; an Arabic translator, Mohammed Yousry; and the former head of the Islamic Observation Center in London, Yassir al-Sirri.

The indictments stem from Lynne's defense of Sheikh Omar Abdel Rahman, the blind Islamic cleric who was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for seditious conspiracy in connection with crimes that never actually happened -- supposed plots to attack New York landmarks. State prosecutors have now accused Lynne and her co-defendants of "providing material support to terrorism" by allegedly helping Rahman communicate his views to his followers in Egypt.

Over several decades Lynne Stewart has defended her clients with passion, principle and expertise, often taking on controversial clients being persecuted by the US

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Funds Needed to Continue the Work of the CSRP

Do check out our *Back Page* for ways that you can help. Funds are needed to make sure that we can continue to popularize the People's War in Peru. The crisis only grows worse in Peru, and the US-led counter-insurgency has been gearing up in the Andean region with much talk again about the War on Drugs, new funding plans, and military bases—even outright accusing the PCP of being in collusion with drug traffickers.

We have been here before—the US rhetoric of “narco-terrorists” is a cowardly attempt to slander the revolution, and to excuse US-supported crimes against the people of Peru.

The Communist Party of Peru has been persevering through an extremely difficult period since the capture of Chairman Gonzalo and other revolutionary leaders. It is important that we also maintain the support work of the committee here in the US, the country most responsible for the misery in Peru.

There is a lot going on in the world, and the US is at the forefront with its international threats, aspirations, and weapons of mass destruction. It's a good time to remind ourselves and others that a better world is possible, and that those fighting today's genuine struggles for liberation are a beacon for all oppressed people—a much needed inspiration in an increasingly volatile world. Support the struggle of our sisters and brothers in Peru by keeping the CSRP strong. We need your ongoing help. Join, or renew your membership today! ♦

Activist Alert: “The Dancer Upstairs” a new film directed by John Malkovich is a thinly veiled attack on the revolution in Peru. It chronicles the 1992 capture of Dr. Abimael Guzman, but is sympathetic to the Dincote cop and very slanderous toward the revolutionaries. The preview (which we've already seen on the big screen and the internet) has an appealing look, but offers no hint of the counter-revolutionary message to come. And the film itself offers the viewer nothing about the goals of the revolution, the conditions of the people, or why they are fighting. “The Dancer Upstairs” is due to open on February 26 (New York and Los Angeles first, but keep your ear to the ground). The CSRP is preparing a leaflet to expose the film and popularize the revolution which you are invited to copy and distribute to movie-goers in your area. ♦

Challapalca (cont. from page 3)

borders with Bolivia and Chile. The government of Peru is using this prison as a concentration camp where especially brutal treatment is inflicted against revolutionary prisoners who have carried out heroic resistance from inside the prison walls. Political prisoners from other prisons are being transferred there.

Today there are over 4,000 political prisoners in Peru. Overwhelmingly they were convicted and sentenced by secret tribunals during the regime of Alberto Fujimori and his notorious adviser, Vladimiro Montesinos. The secret tribunals, many presided over by hooded military judges, offered no opportunity for the accused to present a defense. Most were charged with supporting or participating in the Maoist People's War, which was initiated in 1980 and is being led by the Communist Party of Peru (PCP).



Legacy of Resistance

From the early years of the People's War, successive Peruvian regimes have used special conditions of isolation in the prisons to try to break the spirit of the captured revolutionary fighters. But over the years the revolutionary prisoners have turned their dungeons into what they call “Shining Trenches of Combat.” In the early and mid-1980s, the Peruvian government sent prisoners to the infamous El Frontón island prison off the Peruvian coast to try to isolate them. But the defiant prisoners fought off prison guards to gain control of their cell blocks. With the help of visiting relatives, the prisoners organized their own food production, education, and recreation. They also produced beautiful art works that reached the outside world, bringing news of the People's War.

Winter 2002

These inspiring struggles by revolutionary prisoners were targeted for vicious genocidal campaigns carried out by successive Peruvian regimes. But the prisoners have never stopped fighting back. In February 2000 a major uprising took place at Yanamayo prison in Puno, high in the Andes. The prisoners rose up in response to a murderous assault by police forces during which Carlos Ponce Perez, one of the political prisoners, was assassinated. Fifty political prisoners rose up and demanded the closing of the special prisons designed for torture and isolation. They also demanded an end to the isolation of PCP Chairman Gonzalo, who has been imprisoned since his capture in 1992 at the specially constructed underground prison at El Callao Naval Base in Lima.

Torture and Isolation at Challapalca

In 1996 the Fujimori government opened a new chamber of horrors, the Challapalca

prison. From the beginning this prison was denounced by Amnesty International (AI) and by the International Red Cross because of its extraordinarily harsh conditions. According to a June 2002 report from AI, various human rights organizations—including AI and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights—have demanded that the Peruvian government close the Challapalca prison.

Since Alejandro Toledo became president in 2001 the Peruvian government has been transferring more and more political prisoners to Challapalca. Especially targeted for transfer to Challapalca have been prisoners identified with the political line of carrying forward the Maoist People's War despite the setback that resulted from the capture of Chairman Gonzalo. Once at Challapalca, these prisoners and others are being singled out for

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Challapalca (cont. from page 5)
special punishment for their protests and rebellion within the prison system.

Challapalca's location makes it extremely difficult for family members or lawyers to visit the prisoners, thus leaving the prisoners more isolated and vulnerable to abuse. In their statement the families explain:

"The policy at the Challapalca prison is officially called 'The Special Closed Regimen,' but it is commonly known as the 'punishment' prison because the guiding philosophy at the prison is that prisoners can be 'rehabilitated' through the application of pressure, torture, and even death. Challapalca's character as being in an extremely remote, 'extraterritorial' region serves these ends, since international and national laws regarding human rights are completely disregarded..."

Many of the prisoners there have been targeted previously for attack because they had participated in the organized resistance at Yanamayo prison. It is apparent that the government moved these prisoners from Yanamayo to Challapalca in September 2001 in order to further punish them for participating in the Yanamayo prison protests of February 2000.

The statement also details "the inhumane conditions that family members are subjected to" as they endure great hardships to try to maintain contact with the political prisoners, in the face of the government's efforts to keep them totally isolated:

"We are forced to travel to the Challapalca prison in cargo trucks since there is no normal public transportation. The area is so remote that the only lodging is in the house of a towns person whom we must beg to allow us to stay in his home since the INPE [the prison authorities] has threatened the townspeople and tells them that we are 'dangerous.' In this place, we have to sleep on the floor, there are no bath-rooms, much less potable water or electricity. Under these already difficult conditions, we have to withstand temperatures of below 0 degrees Celsius (32 degrees F) at an altitude of more than 5,000 meters (16,000 feet)."

Brutal Transfers

The authorities carry out systematic beatings and torture of prisoners in the process of transferring prisoners to Challapalca from other prisons. The families' statement (*) documents the following incidents:

"At 7:30 on the evening of September 21, 2001, the prisoners were moved to Challapalca [from Yanamayo prison] with their

hands tied behind their backs. When they arrived at the prison they were beaten and tortured savagely by the prison guards. Later they were forced to take off all of their clothes, and prison guards continued beating them and stole the few personal possessions they had. During the beatings the guards said: 'This is Challapalca, here we'll take you out to the guard fence and make it look like you're trying to escape and right there is where you will die. These orders come from above and we'll carry them out, there are no "human rights" here.' "

"Six prisoners were moved from La Capilla prison (October 6, 2001) and were beaten. One of the prisoners protested being unjustly relocated, beaten and having their personal belongings stolen, by beginning a hunger strike. After he had begun his hunger strike he was beaten to such a point that he had to ask for medical assistance. Instead of getting him medical attention, prison authorities sprayed him with tear gas and INPE personnel yelled at him, 'Die you bastard!'"

Extreme Conditions

The families' statement exposes the inhuman conditions at Challapalca: "The cells that prisoners live in are designed to punish and torture them. The windows are small, they have darkened windowpanes and a cement block which prevent sunlight from entering. ...they are threatened with punishment and more than once they have been put in isolation just for requesting better treatment. The worst of these cases is the case of the prisoner Miguel Atahualpa Inga. There is absolutely no legal basis for this prisoner to be detained for more than seven months in absolute isolation, which is made even worse by the fact that he receives constant death threats."

The prison authorities deliberately attempt to humiliate prisoners during searches of the cells. The statement describes one incident: "That same day of the search, prisoners were forced to take off all of their clothes and become completely naked. This caused such outrage among the prisoners that they held a general protest. The authorities then attacked the prisoners, beating and kidnapping the prisoner Roman Rengifo M."

Families Demand the Shutdown of Challapalca

In summary, the families' statement says: "All of these occurrences show that the different administrations have taken advantage of the isolation and remoteness of the Challapalca prison and its extraterritorial character to violate the laws which apply to prisoners and their families." The statement notes that Peru's Human Rights Committee declared in November 2000 that the existence of Challa-

palca prison violated the United Nations International Agreement on Civil and Political Rights. The families "demand the closing of the Challapalca prison because it is a concentration camp where a plan of increasing isolation, annihilation and genocide is being executed." ♦

(*)The full text of this article and the statement from the families of the Challapalca prisoners is available online at: www.csrp.org



A Peruvian protester, wearing Andean clothes, holds a potato in his hand in a demonstration that the people in Peru are hungry during an anti-government march in Lima, September 26, 2002. Thousands of workers took part in a strike protesting against President Alejandro Toledo's administration in downtown Lima. REUTERS

Lori Berenson Railroaded Again

The second trial of American Lori Berenson, this time in Peru's civilian court, has been declared illegal by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) of the Organization of American States (OAS). Lori Berenson was originally given a life sentence by one of Fujimori's secret military tribunals. She was accused of helping the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, a group that did not support the People's War led by the Communist Party of Peru, but was active at the time of her arrest.

After the fall of the Fujimori/ Montesinos regime, the trial of political prisoners by Peru's military tribunals became widely discredited and the new government eventually had Berenson re-tried in a civilian court, where she received a twenty-year sentence.

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We thought our readers would be interested in this report on the Maoist-led revolution in Nepal. For more info: rwor.org and awtw.org

U.S. Plots Against People's War in Nepal Deuba and Dubya: Nepal's Prime Minister Meets Bush

*Revolutionary Worker #1151, May 19, 2002
(posted at rwor.org)*

On May 6, the Prime Minister of Nepal, Sher Bahadur Deuba, met with George W. Bush at the White House. He is the first Nepali prime minister to meet an American president at the Oval Office. Afterwards, newspapers reported that an "upbeat" Deuba said, "I found President Bush frank, open, and warm... I am very glad, I am very happy, President Bush is very much supportive to our campaign against terrorism and he has assured us he will help in many ways."

Deuba also met with Secretary of State Colin Powell, National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice, various members of the U.S. Congress, and UN Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Since 1996, the government of Nepal has been fighting a Maoist insurgency led by the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). In a country where over 85% of the people are poor peasants living in the countryside, this revolution -- aimed at overthrowing the oppressive Nepalese government and monarchy -- has gained widespread support, especially in the western districts of Rolpa and Rukum. In liberated base areas the Maoists have established revolutionary forms of government where millions of peasants are exercising a "new people's power."

Since last November the government has unleashed the Royal Nepalese Army to wage a brutal "search and destroy" campaign against the People's War. Hundreds of people have been killed, arrested and tortured. Under a "state of emergency" all kinds of constitutional rights have been suspended throughout the country.

The government bragged it would quickly defeat the Maoists. But fierce two-sided fighting has continued with the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) suffering a string of significant defeats. And now, the government of Nepal says it cannot defeat the Maoists without outside help.

Nepalese military officials want the U.S. to provide the Royal Nepalese Army (RNA) with

night-vision goggles to fight surprise attacks in the dark. They also want more transport helicopters to deploy men quickly in rugged terrain. They want flak jackets, automatic weapons and rocket launchers.

India has already sent truckloads of military hardware. Deuba is asking for help from China, Russia and Britain. And now, after Deuba's meeting with Bush, the U.S. is set to give Nepal \$20 million in military aid and will almost double development aid to Nepal, from \$21 million in 2001 to \$38 million in 2003.



Deuba's trip to the United States followed a visit to Kathmandu in January by U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell. Then at the end of April, at least a dozen U.S. military personnel spent weeks with the RNA, touring western districts where fighting has been the most intense. A Pentagon spokesman said the team's mission was to assess how to best spend U.S. funds to help the Nepalese government

Women's Militia -- People's War in Nepal

fight Maoist insurgents. According to the Pentagon, the team was made up of personnel from the U.S. Pacific Command specializing in intelligence, aviation, logistics, engineering and medicine.

The People's War in Nepal is a genuine war of liberation--that has nothing in common with groups like Al Qaeda. But the government of Nepal has officially put the "terrorist" label on the Maoists--packaging its plea for foreign aid as a request for assistance in the "global fight against terrorism."

The growing involvement of the U.S. in supporting the counter-revolution in Nepal is an example of how the so-called "U.S. war on terrorism" is being used as a cover to justify war on any and all insurgencies that threaten U.S. interests--including genuine revolutions aimed at overthrowing oppressive governments. ♦

Lori Berenson (cont. from page 6)

This second trial has been challenged and appealed by Berenson's lawyers. The IACHR has ruled that this trial was flawed because it based its decision on the same questionable testimony given during her military tribunal, and on the same draconian and illegal "anti-terrorist" laws decreed by Fujimori.

So now the Peruvian Congress is rushing to re-write the so-called "anti-terrorist" decrees to avoid future appeals on the same basis by thousands of other political prisoners. The government has also challenged the IACHR ruling. For more info: www.freelori.org ♦

People's Lawyer

(Cont. from page 4)
government. Lynne has supported the efforts of the International Emergency Committee to Defend the Life of Dr. Abimael Guzman and joined in protests against Alberto Fujimori when he came to New York. She has represented political prisoners including David Gilbert and Richard Williams of the Ohio 7, who were ruthlessly targeted after armed actions against the government. In the late 1980s she successfully represented Larry Davis, who was prosecuted for defending himself when a crew of drug-dealing cops tried to kill him. It was in 1993 that she took up the defense of Arab men targeted by the government after the World Trade Center bomb incident.

The government waited until after 9/11 to launch these charges against Lynne. Attorney General John Ashcroft flew to New York City for the sole purpose of holding a press conference to announce the indictments against Lynne, and is using her arrest to justify new post-9/11 prison rules (as outlined in the Patriot Act) that will for the first time permit government monitoring of attorney-client conversations that are supposed to have constitutionally protected confidentiality.

The government's case is designed to further erode civil liberties and to send a chilling message to anyone who comes forward to provide legal defense to people being prosecuted by the U.S. government. Our committee has seen the effects of such policies in Peru, where the lawyers who are willing to defend those accused of "terrorism" are themselves persecuted and railroaded into prison. As Lynne says: this is not just a lawyer issue, it is an attack on the rights of the people to be defended. ♦

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